

Michael Albert and **Henry Lebedinsky** have been performing together since 1996, when they met in Maine while pursuing careers as classical musicians, Michael as an oboist, violinist, and countertenor, Henry as a harpsichordist and organist. Their common love for Celtic music from a variety of traditions brought them to Boston, where they helped found the North Shore-based band The Beggar Boys in 2001. Michael and Henry's original tunes pay tribute to their New England roots as well as the many threads of Celtic music that weave in and out of their lives. They round out their debut album with some of their favourite traditional tunes and some by Celtic greats Martin Wynne and Jerry Holland.

1. Martin Wynne's #1 – The Greeting of Friends – Martin Wynne's #2 – Earl's Chair

We open with four lively reels, two by the last of the great Sligo fiddlers, Martin Wynne, and a traditional tune so beautifully written we named our album for it. Michael wrote 'The Greeting of Friends' in honor of the Beggar Boys - to many good years and to many more to come. Cheers!

2. The Sharing of Port – The Doolin Banjo's Hornpipe

The Beggar Boys love to drink port. It's one of our favourite pastimes. Henry wrote 'The Doolin Banjo's Hornpipe' after playing a session with the great Terry Griffin in Doolin, Co. Clare. The pun was an afterthought.

3. Andy de Jarlis – The Better Man – The Swaggering Jig

Jerry Holland made the first tune famous although he didn't write it. It is named for the great Cape Breton fiddler André de Jarlais. Henry dedicates 'The Better Man' to Michael. Long story.

4. The Melancholy – Lightfoot – John Joe Casey's

The first jig here sounds rather melancholy, don't you think? Moving on. Michael wrote 'Lightfoot' in honor of a Scottish Highland Dance teacher of his. Well, she gave up on him on account of his flat feet, but the way she floated as she danced was truly inspiring.

5. Gladys Maryott's

Henry dedicates this waltz to his wife, Danée's, grandmother. Gladys was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and emigrated to America after WWII to marry the dashing American Air Force officer, Dana Maryott, who she met at a dance hall in Edinburgh during the war. Gladys' love of the folklore and music of her homeland continues to inspire her clan.

6. Liz Power – The White Petticoat – Timmy Clifford's

Henry wrote the first tune after having lunch with fiddlers Liz Carroll and Liz Hanley at the Swannanoa Gathering in Asheville, NC. He was the only person at the table not named Liz and felt rather left out indeed.